Effect of import of Palm oil on cocounut farmers

1405. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to. state:

(a) the expected supply of palm oil both crude and refined from Malaysia during this year, in lieu of a Railway Construction Project contract over five years;

(b) its impact on coconut oil farmers/producers in India and specially of Karnataka; and

(c) whether coconut farmers, especially in Kerala, recent P.M.'s deal and if so, how they are proposed to be compensated with remunerative prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON) would counter trade approximately 1,60,000 tonnes of palm oil products worth approximately 40 million US dollar during the current year against the ongoing project in hand.

(b) and (c) Due to heavy import of palm oil (CPO and RBD Palmolein) the coconut farmers in the country including the State of Karnataka have been adversely affected due to decline in the prices of coconut and other oilseeds in the domestic market. However, in order to protect the interest of coconut farmers in the country the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) which is the nodal agency for procurement of oilseeds including copra, procured copra on the Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

Cyclone rehabilitation and reconstruction in Orissa

1406. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rehabilitation and reconstruction work has not completed in the cyclone affected areas in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;